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Name: Mary P. Zimmerman

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application for:

Thomas A. SILVESTRINI

Serial No.: 09/993,946

Filing Date: December 18, 1997

For: CORNEAL IMPLANT METHOD AND
PLIABLE IMPLANT THEREFOR

Confirmation No.: 5937

Examiner: D. Willse

Group Art Unit: 3738

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Arlington, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Final Office Action issued May 29, 2003 by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the Final Office Action originally was due August 29, 2003. On November 24, 2003, a Notice of Appeal and Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time was filed extending the deadline to respond to January 24, 2004. Enclosed herewith is a Petition for a five (5) month extension of time and authorization to charge the amount of the fee due to undersigned's Deposit Account. In view of the filing of this Petition and payment of the fee, this application is pending today, June 24, 2004.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this reply.

The Remarks begin on page 5 of this reply.